Sl.No.	State/UT	No. of Ex-servicemen
24.	Tamil Nadu	114895
25.	Tripura	1981
26.	Uttar Pradesh	221619
27.	Uttaranchal	114496
28.	West Bengal	51775
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	591
30.	Chandigarh	7429
31.	Delhi	33772
32.	Pondicherry	1403
	TOTAL	**1894962**

Note: Figures for the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Jharkhand, Manipur, Meghalaya Nagaland, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Andaman & Nocobar Islands are provisional.

Accidents of air Force Planes and Helicopters

1326. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Air Force Planes/Helicopters meet with accidents often resulting in heavy loss;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Flying of fighter planes by its very nature entails an inherent risk. Aircraft crashes do result in financial loss in terms of aircraft damaged/lost, alongwith injuries/casualties of pilots and civilians.

(b) Major causes of aircraft accidents are Human Error (HE), Technical Defect (TD) and Bird Hit (BH).

(c) A continuous and multi-faceted effort is always underway in the Indian Air Force to enhance and upgrade flight safety. Measures to

enhance the quality of training to improve the skill levels, ability to exercise sound judgment and situational awareness of pilots are being pursued.

Constant interaction with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) of concerned countries are also maintained to overcome the technical defects of aircraft. Besides, anti-bird measures are also undertaken.

Import of High Altitude Operationable Helicopters

1327. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether army is importing helicopters designed for high altitude operations from Russia, United States and Europe;

(b) if so, whether Hindustan Aeronautiecs Ltd. is unable to deliver similar helicopters in the near future and;

(c) when would the HAL be able to build high altitude operationable helicopters?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) There is a proposal to import helicopters to replace Cheetah and Chetak for high altitude operations for which global 'Request for Proposal' (RFP) was issued.

(b) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) at present does not manufacture helicopter in the category for which RFP has been issued. The proposal envisages import of some helicopters and Transfer of Technology from the successful vendor to enable HAL to manufacture the helicopters.

(c) HAL will be able to manufacture these helicopters after acquiring the Transfer of Technology.

Setting UP of a Group for More Private Participation in Defence Production

1328. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had set up a group to suggest